

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Information, resources + innovative programs to meet the changing needs of our local families.



We continue to envision a community where youth are able to establish *strong + positive relationships* with family, school, peers and the community

2019 accomplishments: ←

Provided direct services to
150+ YOUTHS
in our community

Hired a NEW Youth Program Coordinator to revamp Reach Out A 'Girls Circle' program

4 Wellness Named Program of the Year!

Facilitated **2 YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS**

Assisted with the launch of the Jesse Lewis *Choose Love* Enrichment Program

CREATIVE YOUTH PROGRAMMING

- ★ Our Prevention Coordinator and AmeriCorp Prevention Corp Member offered NEW programs for the community
- ★ Organized Freshmen Transition at Camp Hazen
- ★ Supported Youth in Action's Halloween Dance at JWMS
- ★ Hosted summer adventures for middle school students
- ★ Connected Valley mentors with elementary students
- ★ Partnered with State Police + Chester, Deep River and Essex K-6 Schools to offer *4 Wellness: A 6th Grade Prevention & Wellness Program*
- ★ Hosted teen leadership development at John Winthrop Middle School and Valley High School (Peer Advocates)

CLINICAL SERVICES & COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION

- ★ Our Clinical Director provided case management to youth via the Juvenile Review Board and counseling services that addressed residents' parenting and relationship concerns
- ★ Supported youth who sought help to manage anxiety, depression, grief, bullying & trauma from abuse
- ★ Referred youth to outside agencies for additional support

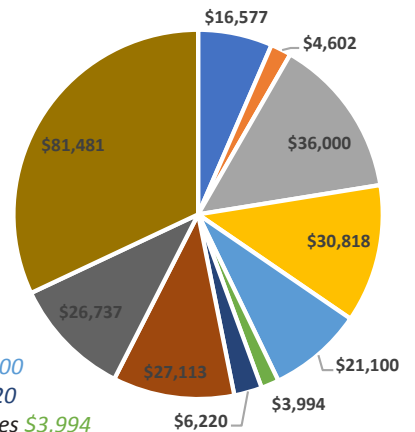
PARENT EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- ★ *"#metoo: how to talk to your kids about consent"* with Jill Whitney, LMFT
- ★ GLSEN Training for 40+ Camp Directors and Counselors at Bushy Hill & Pequot-Sherwood *"Creating a safe, inclusive, supportive camp experience for LGBTQ Youth"*

VOLUNTEERS + DONATIONS HAD A HUGE IMPACT IN 2019

Our special thanks to all of the volunteers who donated their time this year and to all who have made monetary donations essential for maintaining our operating budget. These investments support a quality of life here that values its youngest members & helps shape the trajectory of young lives.

THANK YOU!



**Tri-Town Youth Services
FY 2019 Revenue
\$254,642**

Federal Drug Free Communities Grant **\$81,481** Town of Essex **\$36,000**
 Town of Chester **\$30,818** Local Grants **\$27,113**
 Fundraising & Corporate Gifts **\$26,737** Town of Deep River **\$21,100**
 State Dept. of Education Grant **\$16,577** Summer Co-op Fees **\$6,220**
 State Dept. of Education Enhancement **\$4,602** Program & Counseling Fees **\$3,994**



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS: THE HEART OF OUR WORK

In 2005, Tri-Town Youth Services adopted The Search Institute's Developmental Assets Model, based upon the proven theory that helping youth experience healthy developmental resources and opportunities is one of the best ways to prevent negative behaviors + outcomes as they get older. The Developmental Assets are 40 research-based, positive experiences and qualities that influence young people's development, helping them become caring, responsible + productive adults. Promoting these Assets is at the heart of Tri-Town's work in our community.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Efforts in 2019

- ★ Participated in Choose Love Panel for DRES Parents
- ★ Organized Choose Love Presentation for the Early Childhood Council and Local Preschools
- ★ Choose Love Community Presentation at Kirtland Commons/Club 60
- ★ Co-hosted Scarlett Lewis, Founder of the Jesse Love Choose Love Movement with Region 4
- ★ Presented at 5 new driver Parent Nights at Crossroads Driving School
- ★ Alicia Farrell presented "Marijuana: Weeding Out Fact from Fiction"
- ★ Hosted Drug Take Back with CT State Police
- ★ Narcan Training
- ★ Vaping 101 and Hidden In Plain Sight Parent Presentation
- ★ Hosted National Trainer, Joe Markiewicz, to present Our Report Card to Community, Sustainability Planning with Coalition and Leadership Training for Youth Action Council at Valley Regional High School
- ★ Supported Safe Grad event for graduating seniors
- ★ Guest lectured in all 9th grade health classes about the effects of drugs and vaping on the adolescent body and mind

Our agency and its related **Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition** work across sectors to build youth assets and address a range of behavioral health issues facing young people, while also addressing the needs of those who care for them.

TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES
CHESTER • DEEP RIVER • ESSEX



Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

We are working to **inspire positive changes in the attitudes & practices of individuals, community organizations, businesses and town government** through advocacy + by demonstrating that youth are valuable, integral members of our community with skills & ideas to share with all of us.

Through youth surveys, community focus groups & other means of data collection, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has unique insight into the behaviors + attitudes of local youth. As the Coalition works toward reducing teen alcohol and drug use, it is also able to provide valuable information about teens' internal + external Developmental Assets.

What We Learned : Teens Are Optimistic About Future

TTYSB conducted its bi-annual survey of middle and high school youth in January 2019. Local teens report strong school engagement and participation in extracurricular activities. The vast majority (80%) feel highly motivated for achievement academically and (73%) have a positive view of their future. Good role models abound, as 80% report that their friends are responsible, positive influences. Even so, our community is not exempt from the trends and challenges that face teens today. Tri-Town's survey revealed a sharp increase in teen tobacco use (via vaping), and increases in mental health issues, namely anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. These statistics align with state and national trends, and Tri-Town Youth Services is working closely with Region 4 Schools on early identification, screening and referral to services so that all young people in our community can be resilient and find a sense of peace and personal fulfillment.

TTYSB's professional staff dedicate their time and expertise to several boards and collaboratives in our region, serving in leadership positions for the following:



 We thank you for helping our agency support local youth every day ... it takes a village!